



JON S. CORZINE  
Governor

*New Jersey Office of the Attorney General*

Division of Consumer Affairs  
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
124 Halsey Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

RECEIVED and FILED by  
NEW JERSEY STATE  
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
on this date of: 5-13-2006



ZULIMA V. FARBER  
Attorney General

KIMBERLY S. RICKETTS  
Director

May 25, 2006

Mailing Address:  
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By Certified and Regular Mail

Gregory S. Riskin, D.V.M.  
Valley Brook Veterinary Hospital  
3-21 Saddle River Road  
Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410



Re: I/M/O GREGORY S. RISKIN, D.V.M.  
Complaint Number: 05-074

Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Disciplinary Proceeding

Dear Dr. Riskin:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") has had an opportunity to review a complaint it received concerning your professional conduct rendered to "Chunky" Corona, a fifteen to twenty (15-20) year old Red-Ear Slider Turtle, who was presented to your hospital for treatment on July 11, 2005.

Specifically, the information reviewed by the Board included, but is not limited to, the following documents:

1. A complaint filed by Sunny and John Corona with the Board's administrative office on or about August 23, 2005, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits; and
2. A correspondence, dated September 7, 2005, from Gregory S. Riskin, D.V.M., as well as any and all attachments and exhibits.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you violated as well as failed to comply with the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, codified at N.J.S.A. 45:16-1 et seq., and its accompanying regulations, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) and specifically N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.7, in that you failed to provide appropriate emergency care to Chunky as required by N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.7.

The Board's review into this matter revealed that Chunky was presented to your hospital, Valley Brook Veterinary Hospital ("Hospital") on July 11, 2005, for treatment after having been hit by an automobile and had suffered a broken shell. The turtle was presented by a Good Samaritan who had allegedly witness the accident. Once in your Hospital, the Samaritan, who was later identified as Pamela Mecionis-Spohn, was advised that you were unavailable in that you were in the middle of surgery with a patient. Mrs. Spohn maintains that the only option she was provided by the Hospital was the euthanasia of Chunky if she agreed to pay for this service. According to Mrs. Spohn, she elected to take the turtle home and to contact her son's friend who had some knowledge of turtles. The friend advised Mrs. Spohn to take Chunky to Oradell Animal Hospital where she alleges efforts were made to provide and care for the turtle's condition. Unfortunately, humane euthanasia was ultimately performed on Chunky due to the severity of her injuries.

In your September 7, 2005, letter to the Board, you advise that you were in the middle of a surgical procedure with an anesthetized animal and therefore could not attend to Chunky. You maintain that you directed your staff to refer Mrs. Spohn to Englewood Animal Hospital for immediate treatment of the turtle since you were both unavailable at the moment and unfamiliar with the treatment of turtles. Your correspondence further confirms that euthanasia was offered by the Hospital but you assert that it was offered only after Mrs. Spohn declined to pursue your referral and decided to take Chunky home.

The Board has reviewed the entire record established in this matter and has concluded that your conduct as detailed above indicates that you violated, or failed to comply with, the provisions of the regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine in this State, contrary to the mandates of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), specifically N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.7. While the Board understands from your correspondence that you were initially unavailable to immediately examine Chunky, the Board finds that you should have examined the animal prior to offering euthanasia.

At this juncture, the Board has determined that the above violations are sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that determination, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

1. Cease and desist from violating the mandates of N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.7 by providing adequate emergency care to animals presented to you; and
2. Pay a penalty in the amount of **\$1,000.00**, to be paid immediately upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, for your violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) and N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.7.

If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. In such event, this letter will be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate disciplinary action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an order, requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford, who may be reached at (973) 648-3696.

If you elect to settle this matter presently, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney

General's Office for the initiation of the appropriate disciplinary action.

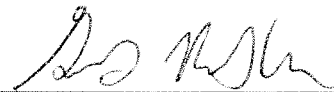
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_



LESLIE G. ARONSON  
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, **GREGORY S. RISKIN, D.V.M.**, of Valley Brook Veterinary Hospital, hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct that has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to pay a penalty in the amount of **\$1,000.00**. I also agree to adhere to the other provisions enumerated in this settlement letter.



**GREGORY S. RISKIN, D.V.M.**

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

6/9/06

cc: Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford